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MONITORING OF INTERNATIONAL PLANS AND PROGRAMMES OF ACTION

Draft resolution submitted by the Chairman of the Working Group on Monitoring the Implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities

Monitoring the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities

The Commission for Social Development,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 48/96 of 20 December 1993, by which the General Assembly adopted the Standard Rules on Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities,

Further recalling that the Rules are to be monitored within the framework of the sessions of the Commission for Social Development,

Bearing in mind that the purpose of the monitoring mechanism is to further the effective implementation of the Rules,

Noting with appreciation the appointment of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission for Social Development on Disability,

Also noting the establishment of the panel of experts to be consulted by the Special Rapporteur,

Noting with appreciation the generous voluntary contributions made by Member States to support the work of the Special Rapporteur,

Recalling that the Commission was requested to establish, at its thirty-fourth session, an open-ended working group to examine the Special Rapporteur's report and to make recommendations on how to improve the application of the Rules,

Having considered the oral report of the Special Rapporteur, made before the Commission at its thirty-fourth session,

Noting with satisfaction that the Rules are being introduced in a number of countries and that they play an important role in influencing policies and thinking at both the national and international levels,

Noting with concern that only a small number of States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations have responded to the first set of questions of the Special Rapporteur concerning the implementation of the Rules,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the oral report of the Special Rapporteur and the recommendations that he made;

2. Welcomes the general approach to monitoring by the Special Rapporteur to place emphasis on advice and support to States concerning implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities;

3. Encourages the Special Rapporteur to focus his monitoring efforts in the forthcoming two years on an appropriate number of priority areas, bearing in mind that the overall goal of the monitoring activity is to implement the Rules in their entirety;

4. Urges States to continue their efforts to implement the Rules;

5. Calls upon States to establish or strengthen national coordinating committees or similar bodies to serve as national focal points on disability matters;

6. Invites States to communicate to the Secretariat and to the Special Rapporteur the name, address and other relevant information on their national focal point to facilitate exchanges of information on the implementation of the Rules;

7. Strongly urges States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to cooperate closely with the Special Rapporteur and respond to his second questionnaire on implementation of the Rules;

8. Calls upon the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the Secretariat, as the United Nations focal point on disability issues, the United Nations Development Programme and other entities of the United Nations system, such as the regional commissions, the specialized agencies and inter-agency mechanisms, to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur in the implementation and monitoring of the Rules;

9. Calls upon States to participate actively in international cooperation concerning policies for equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities and for improvement of living conditions of persons with disabilities in developing countries;

10. Urges Governments to consider making further voluntary contributions to support the work of the Special Rapporteur;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to draw the present resolution to the attention of Member States;

12. Further requests the Secretary-General to circulate the report of the Special Rapporteur on monitoring the implementation of the Rules as an official document of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly under item 107 of the preliminary list, social development.